WE CLAIM:

1. A digital video recorder (DVR) for use with a monitor and a set top box (STB), the STB for demodulating program data from a program signal received over a communication channel and for generating a STB graphical user interface (GUI), the STB comprising a DVR interface, the DVR comprising:

(a) a local memory for storing the program data received from the STB;

(b) a STB interface for communicating with the STB over the DVR interface; and

(c) a DVR controller for:

generating a DVR GUI; and

in response to user input, communicating with the STB to coordinate whether the STB GUI or the DVR GUI is displayed on the monitor.

2. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the STB interface implements a serial communication protocol.

3. The DVR as recited in claim 2, wherein the STB interface implements a Universal Serial Bus (USB) communication protocol.

4. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the STB interface implements a 1394 communication protocol.

5. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the DVR receives the program data from the STB.

6. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the STB GUI and DVR GUI display Electronic Program Guide (EPG) data.

7. The DVR as recited in claim 1, further comprising a modem for receiving Electronic Program Guide (EPG) data, the EPG data for display in the DVR GUI.

8. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein the DVR receives Electronic Program Guide (EPG) data from the STB, the EPG data for display in the DVR GUI.

9. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein when the user input indicates that the STB GUI should be displayed on the monitor, the STB communicates a request to the DVR to display the STB GUI.

10. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein when the user input indicates that the DVR GUI should be displayed on the monitor, the STB communicates a request to the DVR to display the DVR GUI.

11. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein when the user input indicates that the STB GUI should be displayed on the monitor, the DVR communicates a request to the STB to display the STB GUI.

12. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein:

(a) the STB receives a command representing the user input from a remote control;

(b) when the STB GUI is displayed on the monitor, the STB processes the command received from the remote control; and

(c) when the DVR GUI is displayed on the monitor, the STB communicates the command received from the remote control to the DVR.

13. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein:

(a) the DVR receives a command representing the user input from a remote control;

(b) when the DVR GUI is displayed on the monitor, the DVR processes the command received from the remote control; and

(c) when the STB GUI is displayed on the monitor, the DVR communicates the command received from the remote control to the STB.

14. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein:

(a) the DVR comprises a plurality of program identifiers identifying programs scheduled for recording by the DVR;

(b) the DVR communicates to the STB the plurality of program identifiers; and

(c) the STB is responsive to the plurality of program identifiers to display the STB GUI.

15. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein:

(a) the DVR comprises a plurality of program identifiers identifying programs scheduled for recording by the DVR;

(b) the DVR receives from the STB information identifying a program selected by a user from the STB GUI; and

(c) the DVR modifies the plurality of program identifiers using the information identifying the program selected by the user from the STB GUI.

16. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein:

(a) the DVR comprises a plurality of program identifiers identifying programs recorded by the DVR;

(b) the DVR communicates to the STB the plurality of program identifiers; and

(c) the STB is responsive to the plurality of program identifiers to display the STB GUI.

17. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein:

(a) the user input is generated using a remote control; and

(b) the remote control comprises a first button for selecting the STB GUI to be displayed on the monitor and a second button for selecting the DVR GUI to be displayed on the monitor.

18. The DVR as recited in claim 1, wherein:

(a) the STB GUI comprises an option for displaying the DVR GUI; and

(b) the user input is generated by selecting the option to display the DVR GUI from the STB GUI.

19. A set top box (STB) for use with a monitor and a digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR for storing program data received from the STB and for generating a DVR GUI, the DVR comprising a STB interface, the STB comprising:

(a) a tuner for demodulating the program data from a program signal received over a communication channel;

(b) a DVR interface for communicating with the DVR over the STB interface; and

(c) a STB controller for:

generating a STB GUI; and

in response to user input, communicating with the DVR to coordinate whether the STB GUI or the DVR GUI is displayed on the monitor.

20. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein the DVR interface implements a serial communication protocol.

21. The STB as recited in claim 20, wherein the DVR interface implements a Universal Serial Bus (USB) communication protocol.

22. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein the DVR interface implements a 1394 communication protocol.

23. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein the STB transmits the program data to the DVR.

24. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein at least one of the STB GUI and DVR GUI display Electronic Program Guide (EPG) data.

25. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein the STB communicates Electronic Program Guide (EPG) data to the DVR, the EPG data for display in the DVR GUI.

26. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein when the user input indicates that the STB GUI should be displayed on the monitor, the STB communicates a request to the DVR to

display the STB GUI.

27. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein when the user input indicates that the DVR GUI should be displayed on the monitor, the STB communicates a request to the DVR to display the DVR GUI.

28. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein when the user input indicates that the STB GUI should be displayed on the monitor, the DVR communicates a request to the STB to display the STB GUI.

29. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein:

(a) the STB receives a command representing the user input from a remote control;

(b) when the STB GUI is displayed on the monitor, the STB processes the command received from the remote control; and

(c) when the DVR GUI is displayed on the monitor, the STB communicates the command received from the remote control to the DVR.

30. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein:

(a) the DVR receives a command representing the user input from a remote control;

(b) when the DVR GUI is displayed on the monitor, the DVR processes the command received from the remote control; and

(c) when the STB GUI is displayed on the monitor, the DVR communicates the command received from the remote control to the STB.

31. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein:

(a) the DVR comprises a plurality of program identifiers identifying programs scheduled for recording by the DVR;

(b) the DVR communicates to the STB the plurality of program identifiers; and

(c) the STB is responsive to the plurality of program identifiers to display the STB GUI.

32. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein:

(a) the DVR comprises a plurality of program identifiers identifying programs scheduled for recording by the DVR;

(b) the DVR receives from the STB information identifying a program selected by a user from the STB GUI; and

(c) the DVR modifies the plurality of program identifiers using the information identifying the program selected by the user from the STB GUI.

33. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein:

(a) the DVR comprises a plurality of program identifiers identifying programs recorded by the DVR;

(b) the DVR communicates to the STB the plurality of program identifiers; and

(c) the STB is responsive to the plurality of program identifiers to display the STB GUI.

34. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein:

(a) the user input is generated using a remote control; and

(b) the remote control comprises a first button for selecting the STB GUI to be displayed on the monitor and a second button for selecting the DVR GUI to be displayed on the monitor.

35. The STB as recited in claim 19, wherein:

(a) the STB GUI comprises an option for displaying the DVR GUI; and

(b) the user input is generated by selecting the option to display the DVR GUI from the STB GUI.

36. A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium for use in a digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR for use with a monitor and a set top box (STB), the STB for demodulating program data from a program signal received over a communication channel and for generating a STB graphical user interface (GUI), the STB comprising a DVR interface and the DVR comprising a STB interface for communicating with the STB over the DVR interface, the DVR comprising a local memory, the computer program comprising code segments for:

(a) receiving the program data from the STB;

(b) storing the program data in the local memory;

(c) generating a DVR GUI; and

(d) in response to user input, communicating with the STB to coordinate whether the STB GUI or the DVR GUI is displayed on the monitor.

37. A computer program embodied on a computer readable storage medium for use in a set top box (STB), the STB for use with a monitor and a digital video recorder (DVR), the DVR for storing program data received from the STB and for generating a DVR GUI, the DVR comprising a STB interface and the STB comprising a DVR interface for communicating with the DVR over the STB interface, the computer program comprising code segments for:

(a) demodulating the program data from a program signal received over a communication channel;

(b) generating a STB GUI; and

(c) in response to user input, communicating with the DVR to coordinate whether the STB GUI or the DVR GUI is displayed on the monitor.